

House File 2089 - Introduced

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BY WHEELER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to civic education and social studies
2 instruction in public schools, accredited nonpublic schools,
3 and charter schools.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, Code 2022, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. Civic education shall be taught in
4 kindergarten through grade twelve. Civic education shall
5 include resources that provide examples of patriotism based
6 on the first-person accounts of diverse individuals who
7 demonstrate civic-minded qualities, including first-person
8 accounts of individuals who are victims of nations governed
9 by political ideologies that conflict with the political
10 ideologies of the United States who can compare the political
11 ideologies of the United States with the political ideologies
12 of the nation that victimized the individual. Civic education
13 shall assist students in developing all of the following:

14 a. An understanding of the students' shared rights and
15 responsibilities as residents of the state.

16 b. An understanding of the founding principles of the
17 United States, including national sovereignty, natural
18 law, self-evident truth, equality of all persons, limited
19 government, popular sovereignty, and inalienable rights of
20 life, liberty, and property.

21 c. A sense of civic pride and desire to participate
22 regularly with government at the local, state, and federal
23 levels.

24 d. An understanding of the process for effectively
25 advocating before governmental bodies and officials.

26 e. An understanding of the civic-minded expectations of an
27 upright and desirable citizenry that recognizes and accepts
28 responsibility for preserving and defending the blessings of
29 liberty inherited from prior generations and secured by the
30 Constitution of the United States.

31 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
32 2022, is amended to read as follows:

33 b. Five units of the social studies including instruction
34 in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration
35 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in

1 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting
2 an absentee ballot. All students shall complete a minimum
3 of one-half unit of United States government and one unit of
4 United States history. The one-half unit of United States
5 government shall include the all of the following:

6 (1) The voting procedure as described in this lettered
7 paragraph and section 280.9A. The government instruction shall
8 also include a

9 (2) A study of the Constitution of the United States and the
10 Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution and an assessment
11 of a student's knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of
12 Rights.

13 (3) A comparative discussion of political ideologies,
14 including communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the
15 principles of freedom and democracy that were essential to the
16 founding of the United States.

17 Sec. 3. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph g, Code
18 2022, is amended to read as follows:

19 g. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section
20 256.7, subsection 21, and the educational standards of section
21 256.11, unless specifically waived by the state board during
22 the application process; provided, however, that the state
23 board shall not waive the educational standards established in
24 section 256.11, subsection 4A.

25 EXPLANATION

26 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
27 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

28 This bill relates to civic education and social studies
29 instruction in public schools, accredited nonpublic schools,
30 and charter schools.

31 The bill requires the state board of education to adopt rules
32 to implement new requirements in the educational standards
33 established pursuant to Code section 256.11 that apply to all
34 public schools and accredited nonpublic schools. The bill
35 requires civic education to be taught in kindergarten through

1 grade 12 in public schools, accredited nonpublic schools, and
2 charter schools. The bill describes what civic education is
3 to include and what civic education is to assist students in
4 developing. The bill also requires that the one-half unit
5 of United States government that is required to be taught
6 in grades 9 through 12 in public schools and accredited
7 nonpublic schools include a comparative discussion of political
8 ideologies that conflict with the principles of freedom and
9 democracy that were essential to the founding of the United
10 States.